AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions comprising:

issuing, by a prepaid card issuer, a multiplicity of prepaid cards, each bearing prepaid card identification indicia;

inputting the prepaid card identification indicia of a prepaid card into a point of sale terminal;

communicating said prepaid card identification indicia from the point of sale terminal to a remote server to validate said prepaid card; and

following ~~upon~~ receipt of acceptable validation from said remote server, processing a prepaid card transaction ~~using the prepaid card~~ as a credit card transaction employing a credit card account associated with said prepaid card issuer, which credit card account is identified by a credit card number which is different from said identification indicia of said prepaid card.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 1 and wherein said processing a prepaid card transaction includes:

~~providing credit card identification indicia for said credit card account;~~
~~and~~

charging said credit card account, identified by said credit card number ~~identification indicia~~, for the amount of said prepaid card transaction.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 2 and wherein said credit card account is charged for the amount of prepaid card transactions of ~~corresponds to~~ at least a plurality of said multiplicity of prepaid cards.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 2 and wherein said credit card number ~~identification indicia~~ is stored at said point of sale terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 4 and wherein said credit card _number_ ~~identification indicia~~ is accessed at said point of sale terminal using said prepaid card identification indicia.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 2 and wherein said credit card _number_ ~~identification indicia~~ is stored at said remote server.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for processing prepaid card transactions according to claim 6 and wherein said credit card _number_ ~~identification indicia~~ is accessed at said remote server using said prepaid card identification indicia.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 and wherein said inputting comprises reading said _prepaid card_ identification indicia.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 and wherein said inputting comprises keying in said _prepaid card_ identification indicia.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1 and wherein said acceptable validation comprises balance information.

11. (Currently Amended) A point of sale terminal comprising:

an input device operative to receive prepaid card identification indicia from a prepaid card issued by a prepaid card issuer; and

a processor, operative to _identify a credit card number associated with_ ~~process a prepaid card transaction using the prepaid card as a credit card transaction employing~~ a credit card account associated with said prepaid card issuer_, which credit card number which is different from said prepaid card identification indicia._

12. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 and wherein said input device is a card reader.

13. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 and wherein said input device is a keyboard.

14. (Currently Amended) A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 and wherein said processor is operative to verify acceptable validity of said prepaid card identification indicia prior to processing said prepaid card transaction.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 and also comprising a communicator, operative to communicate said prepaid card identification indicia to a remote server to determine validity of said prepaid card.

17. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 16 and wherein said remote server is operative to communicate a balance in said prepaid card, via said communicator, to said terminal.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 ~~claim 18~~ and also comprising a storage device for storing said credit card number ~~identification indicia~~.

20. (New)   A point of sale terminal according to claim 11 and wherein said point of sale terminal receives said credit card number from a remote server.

21. (New)   A method according to claim 5 and also comprising identifying said credit card number by accessing a lookup table based on said prepaid card identification indicia.

22. (New)   A method according to claim 7 and also comprising identifying said credit card number by accessing a lookup table based on said prepaid card identification indicia.

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